

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The Foreign Trade Bureau of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's Ministry of Economics has established a foreign trading station at Dongdang (106-41, 21-56) for the special purpose of consolidating control over trade between Vietnam and Kwangsi and of absorbing commodities exported by private merchants in Kwangsi.
2. The principal commodities exported from Vietnam which are handled by this station are railway ties, tung oil, fennel, and star aniseed; those imported from Kwangsi are rice and salt. In early July 1952 prices prevailing between the station and private merchants on the China-Vietnam border were as follows, per 100 catties:

Second grade polished rice	JMP 140,000
Salt	JMP 180,000
Tung Oil	JMP 730,000
Fennel and Star Aniseed	Approximately JMP 640,000

Comment. The Kwangsi Government has repeatedly prohibited the circulation of Vietnam banknotes within Kwangsi, but it has not been able to completely enforce this order in the border regions.

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